

**Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 8, 2013  
One Twin Pines Lane, Belmont, CA**

**CALL TO ORDER 7:35 P.M.**

**ROLL CALL**

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Lieberman, Braunstein, Feierbach, Warden (left mtg at 9:45 P.M.), Wozniak

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: None

Staff Present: City Manager Scoles, City Attorney Rennie, Community Development Director de Melo, Parks and Recreation Director Gervais, Public Works Director Oskoui, Finance Director Fil, Recreation Manager Brunson, Chief Building Official Nolfi, City Treasurer Violet, City Clerk Cook

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Led by Mayor Wozniak

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Kathleen Beasley**, Belmont Library, described the Library's participation in the recent Save the Music, and outlined upcoming programs to be held at the Library.

**Dan Anderson**, Belmont, resident, spoke regarding issues he is having with second hand smoke and requested the installation of additional signage to discourage smoking.

**Perry Kennan**, Belmont resident, commented regarding the Chamber of Commerce flyer that was mailed out for the city council candidate forum. He also commented regarding the proposed bridge at Waterdog Lake, and submitted a petition opposing its installation (petition on file in City Clerk's Office). He also spoke regarding the retirement of Daily Journal reporter Bill Silverfarb. He expressed his appreciation for the Save the Music Festival.

**COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Wozniak announced that Sam Trans is seeking members for its citizens' advisory committee, announced upcoming candidate forums, and pointed out that the Belmont-Redwood Shores School District had recently formed a citizens' advisory committee to address increased enrollment.

Public Works Director Oksoui spoke regarding SBWMA's (South Bayside Waste Management Authority's) upcoming random sampling of home recycling carts to measure recycling success.

**ITEMS APPROVED ON CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Minutes** of Regular City Council Meeting and Regular Belmont Fire Protection District Meeting of September 10, 2013, and the Regular City Council Meeting of September 24, 2013

**Motion** to Receive Monthly Financial Reports

**Informational Report** on Successor Agency Activities

**Resolution 2013-100** of the City Council Authorizing a Purchase Order for Unleaded Gasoline and Diesel Fuel from Valley Oil Company for an Amount not to Exceed \$25,000

**Resolution 2013-101** of the City Council Allocating up to \$250,000 in Contingency Funding Towards FY 2014 Council Priorities

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Consider Recommendation from the Parks and Recreation Commission Regarding a Preferred Design Alternative for the Synthetic Turf Project at the Belmont Sports Complex**

Parks and Recreation Director Gervais explained the need to turf the Sports Complex in order to address maintenance, winter field closures, new sports demands, wildlife, and health and wellness. He outlined the usage of each field at the Complex by different sports groups and pointed out that the goal was to increase the playable hours and eliminate the closure of the fields in the winter. He explained that the current fields use a considerable amount of water, and the installation of turf would be environmentally and economically sustainable. He outlined the project, the materials to be used, and the projected cost.

Parks and Recreation Director Gervais described the field layout options that were considered by the sports groups as well as by the Parks and Recreation Commission, and he noted that Option A-2 was selected as the preferred alternative.

Discussion ensued regarding the condition of the Little League field and the consensus to have it remain a grass field. Recreation Manager Brunson noted that no soccer is played on this field, and he clarified that soccer results in more wear and tear on the field.

**Judy King**, Belmont resident, commented that her son will not let his children play baseball on a portable pitching mound due to safety concerns, and the portable mound is time consuming to install. She commented that baseball players prefer a dirt and grass infield.

**Art Andrews**, former Parks and Recreation Commissioner and Sports Advisory Board Member, expressed his support for option A-2. He noted that the other options are expensive for few users. He stated that portable pitching mounds are not difficult to install.

**Jaime Dal Porto**, Belmont-Redwood Shores AYSO, expressed support for option A-2. He pointed out that 1,000 children are playing soccer, 90 percent of whom are Belmont residents. He noted that turfing the field would increase the ability for more kids to be able to play.

**Karl Mittelstadt**, Belmont resident, stated that option A-2 is not a compromise since it takes away from baseball. He pointed out that the original goal was a full-sized softball and full-sized soccer field, and that option B-1 meets the goal for both sports. He expressed his desire that field lighting be addressed when funding becomes available.

**Eric Ravaglia**, Belmont United Soccer/AYSO, expressed support for option A-2.

**Greg Snelling**, Belmont resident, expressed support for option A-2.

**Jay Anthony**, Belmont-Redwood Shores Pony-Colt Baseball, pointed out that there is no difference in maintenance costs for any of the options, and that a grass infield is still usable by all sports. He stated that turfing the entire field is not a compromise, and he expressed support for option B-1.

**Steve Vega**, Babe Ruth Baseball, stated that grass was installed at the Sports Complex to slow balls down for safety, and synthetic turf does the opposite. He pointed out that baseball is meant to be played on grass. He expressed support for option B-1.

**Siva Durairaj**, Belmont resident, expressed support for option A-2 as it accommodates the maximum number of players.

**Rich Vallero**, Belmont Youth Baseball, pointed out that all high schools contain dirt infield and grass. He stated there is a benefit for younger players to play on grass and that turf takes away the competitive edge. He expressed support for option B-1.

**Tom Snider**, Belmont United Soccer Club, stated that this is not a baseball versus soccer issue, and he supports option A-2 as a way to make the field as efficient as possible. He noted that turf allows for more flexibility. He stated that option B-1 has the potential for turning away soccer players.

**Manouch Ghajar**, Belmont resident, expressed support for option A-2. He noted that NCAA rules require playing on turf.

**Rich Bortoli**, Parks and Recreation Commissioner/Sports Advisory Board Member, stated that his opinion has not changed since the Commission voted on this matter in June. He noted that this is a wants versus need issue, and that soccer wants turf but does not need it. He expressed support for option B-1, and noted that option A-2 is not a compromise. He pointed out that other venues are available for younger soccer players. He also noted that some major league stadiums have removed turf that they previously installed.

**Chris Zaine**, Belmont resident, stated that that field space is always a challenge. He suggested choosing a design that maximizes usage and flexibility, and he recommended option A-2.

**Kevin Sullivan**, Belmont resident, stated that this process has been very public through the Parks and Recreation Commission. He pointed out that on a vote of 6-1 the Commission supported option A-2, and that the City Council's discussion this evening regarding this matter was unnecessary. He stated that small interest groups should not outweigh the final outcome.

**Amy Grushka**, Belmont resident, stated that it is hard to find space for soccer games. She expressed support for the ability to be able to play multiple games simultaneously.

Discussion ensued regarding the current field usage. Recreation Manager Brunson explained that the City's field use policy addresses the allocation of playing time. Discussion also ensued regarding the impacts to the loss of field space at Ralston Middle School due to construction.

Councilmember Braunstein expressed concerns regarding whether or not there was enough room to accommodate T-ball. He expressed a desire to accommodate all sports. Recreation Manager Brunson explained that T-ball players can use portable backstops. He clarified that the dimensions of a lacrosse field are similar to that of a soccer field. Parks and Recreation Director Gervais stated that the age of the players is what drives the size of the field. He noted that lacrosse could develop as a full-fledged sport.

Discussion ensued regarding which age groups can play on which fields.

In response to Councilmember Braunstein, Recreation Manager Brunson stated that the availability of coaches is what drives the number of participants for each sport. He pointed out that soccer is unlimited, all players are accommodated, and the availability of field space is not a factor. Parks and Recreation Director Gervais explained that the City has no cap on the number of players.

Councilmember Warden commented that most kids are able to play on the U-12 field. He also stated that option A-2 seemed to be a reasonable solution. He pointed out that there is mixed information and opinions regarding playing baseball on turf. He noted that he would rely on others for their expertise on this matter.

Councilmember Lieberman noted that at the last City Council meeting he proposed the formation of a task force to work with Oracle to consider enlarging the Sports Complex, which could include a funding plan. He pointed out that funding for this project would be an issue regardless of which option is selected. He noted that Belmont could host tournaments if it had a full sized baseball field, and enlarging the Complex could provide flexibility for multiple games, which would be a gain for the soccer community. He stated he could support option A-2 and he recognizes the value of playing baseball on grass and dirt.

Councilmember Feierbach stated that she can still make a decision on this matter regardless of any potential future arrangement with Oracle. She expressed support for Councilmember Lieberman's proposal to outreach to Oracle as a concurrent process to making a decision regarding the turf. She pointed out that Oracle has entitlements on the land and may not be interested in relinquishing the property.

Councilmember Warden stated that this issue pits baseball against soccer. He pointed out that the field was originally built for baseball. He noted that the greatest demand is for players under the age of 12. He expressed support for option B-1 and noted that the infield could be turfed in the future. He commented that playing baseball on turf is not the right way to learn the sport.

Councilmember Braunstein expressed support for a dedicated field for baseball. He also expressed support for the subcommittee as proposed by Councilmember Lieberman. He would like to be able to accommodate future sports. He explained that he supports option A-2 as it provides the most flexibility.

Mayor Wozniak concurred with the need to be able to provide for other sports in the future. She does not support playing baseball on turf as it is not the same experience as grass. She pointed out the need to move forward on this matter. She supports the Oracle subcommittee. She stated that she originally did not favor the installation of turf but now supports it for the Sports Complex. She stated she would support option A-2.

Parks and Recreation Director Gervais explained the need to design the field in order to seek funding.

**ACTION:** Councilmember Lieberman made a motion to approve “Option A-2” and to appoint a subcommittee to work with Oracle for a better Sports Complex.

Mayor Wozniak expressed her support for the subcommittee and recommended postponing the appointment of a subcommittee to a later date and to include others such as members of the sports groups on the committee. Councilmember Lieberman suggested that the subcommittee should be comprised only of two council members and staff.

**ACTION:** On the original motion, seconded by Mayor Wozniak, motion passed on a roll call vote (4-1, Warden no).

Discussion ensued regarding the subcommittee. Councilmember Warden clarified that his no vote on the earlier motion was because he preferred option B-2 but that he supports the formation of a subcommittee.

Council concurred to have Councilmembers Lieberman and Braunstein serve on the subcommittee.

Mayor Wozniak expressed her desire that the goal of the subcommittee would be to acquire a field dedicated to baseball. Councilmember Lieberman stated that his goal would be a solution supported by all sports groups.

**RECESS: 9:45 P.M.**  
(At this time, Councilmember Warden left the meeting.)  
**RECONVENE: 9:55 P.M.**

**Review of Solid Waste Rate Application and Resolution 2013-102 Stating the City of Belmont's Intent to Revise the Maximum Rate that may be Charged for Solid Waste, Recyclable Materials, and Organic Materials Collection Services Effective January 1, 2014 and Setting a Public Rate Hearing**

**Tom Gould**, Solid Waste consultant, described the Proposition 218 hearing process. He noted that the action tonight would be to set a maximum rate. He outlined the history of the franchise agreement that went into effect in 2010. He described the trash cart migration history and its effect on revenues. He clarified that the increases in rates due to migration have been spread over several years, which will discontinue after 2014.

Councilmember Lieberman suggested spreading the migration costs evenly across all cart sizes. He noted that larger cart users are being punished for not migrating.

Councilmember Feierbach said that those using the smaller carts need to be rewarded. She does not support spreading the costs evenly.

Mayor Wozniak stated that she does not support spreading the costs evenly. She pointed out that the biggest cost for solid waste is the landfill, and diversion needs to be encouraged.

In response to Councilmember Braunstein, Consultant Gould clarified that the cost does not vary based on the size of the cart, but is based on the cost of the landfill. He noted that the proposed rates reflect a proportional share.

**Perry Kennan**, Belmont resident, requested clarification as to whether or not the rates reflect the legacy payment to Allied Waste.

Public Works Director Oskoui explained that reserves have covered the legacy costs. Finance Director Fil added that one percent of the rates are allocated to reserves. He noted that the legacy payments will not affect rates in the near future.

**ACTION:** On a motion by Councilmember Feierbach, seconded by Councilmember Lieberman, Resolution 2013-102 Stating the City of Belmont's Intent to Revise the Maximum Rate that may be Charged for Solid Waste, Recyclable Materials, and Organic Materials Collection Services Effective January 1, 2014 and Setting a Public Rate Hearing for November 26, 2013 was unanimously approved by a show of hands (4-0, Warden absent).

**Consider Introduction of a City of Belmont Ordinance Adopting the 2013 California Building, Residential, Mechanical, Plumbing and Electrical Codes with Local Amendments**

City Attorney Rennie explained the triennial adoption process for the Building and Fire Codes.

Chief Building Official Nolfi stated that cities and counties can adopt local amendments to the State building codes under certain circumstances. He outlined the proposed local amendments and appendices. He pointed out that there is a regional effort to minimize amendments in order to provide consistency. He described the evaluation process of buildings following a disaster, including the use of the occupancy placards.

**MEETING EXTENSION:** At this time, being 10:30 p.m., on a motion by Councilmember Braunstein, seconded by Councilmember Feierbach, the meeting was unanimously extended by 30 minutes by a show of hands (4-0, Warden absent).

**ACTION:** On a motion by Councilmember Lieberman, seconded by Councilmember Feierbach, and unanimously approved by a show of hands (4-0, Warden absent) to introduce an Ordinance Adopting the 2013 California Building, Residential, Mechanical, Plumbing and Electrical Codes, to set the Public Hearing for the second reading and adoption for November 12, 2013, and to adopt Resolution 2013-103 Making Express Findings that Modifications to the 2013 California Building, Residential, Mechanical, Plumbing, and Electrical Codes are Reasonably Necessary Due to Local Conditions.

**COMMISSION, COMMITTEE, AND COUNCIL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ASSIGNMENT UPDATES, AND STAFF ITEMS**

**Verbal report from Councilmembers on Intergovernmental (IGR) and Subcommittee Assignments**

Councilmember Braunstein announced that the next Four Corners meeting would be held on October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Councilmember Lieberman provided an update of activities at South Bay Systems Authority (SBSA).

**Verbal Report from City Manager**

City Manager Scoles described the City's participation in the recent Save the Music Festival. He announced that the Exclusive Negotiating Agreement for Firehouse Square had been executed. He noted that Autobahn Motors has submitted an application to remodel its existing facility just east of Highway 101. He announced that the Bishop Road property sale had been completed. He noted that the PG&E gas line located in Belmont is different from the one in the City of San Carlos.

**ADJOURNMENT** at this time, being 10:50 p.m.

**Terri Cook  
City Clerk**

This meeting was tape recorded and videotaped